

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 USBERL 01771 261554Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

IO-13 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /081 W

----- 003549

R 261515Z AUG 76

FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2992

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE USBERLIN 1771

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, WB, US, UR, UK, FR, GW, GE

SUBJECT: RADIO MOSCOW AND PRAVDA COMMENTARY ON RECENT BORDER INCIDENTS

REF: USBERLIN 1751

SUMMARY: NEUES DEUTSCHLAND HAS REPRINTED PRAVDA COMMENTARY CRITICIZING FRG POLITICIANS WHOM PRAVDA CLAIMS ARE USING ELECTION CAMPAIGN TO INSTIGATE PROVOCATIONS AGAINST GDR BORDERS. SIGNIFICANTLY, DESPITE INTENSE CURRENT INTEREST, PRAVDA COMMENTARY MAKES NO REFERENCE TO AUGUST 13 INCIDENTS OR TO ALLEGED VIOLATION OF QA. RADIO MOSCOW BROADCAST AUGUST 25, HOWEVER, CRITICIZES FRG AND WEST BERLIN CITIZENS WHO JEOPARDIZE SITUATION IN BERLIN THROUGH CONSCIOUS MISUSE OF TRANSIT WAYS. RADIO MOSCOW ARGUES THAT SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF QA DEPENDS ON FRG'S GOOD NEIGHBORLY RELATIONS WITH ITS SOCIALIST BLOC NEIGHBORS. END SUMMARY.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 USBERL 01771 261554Z

1. NEUES DEUTSCHLAND REPRINTED IN ITS AUGUST 25 EDITION

PRAVDA COMMENTARY FROM PREVIOUS DAY WHICH CRITICIZES WEST GERMAN "REVANCHISTS" AND "REACTIONARIES" WHO ATTEMPT TO USE OCCASION OF CURRENT FRG ELECTION CAMPAIGN AS EXCUSE FOR STIRRING UP PUBLIC OPINION AGAINST THE GDR, AND TO PROVOKE BORDER INCIDENTS. PRAVDA NOTES THAT "SOME POLITICIANS (ESPECIALLY FROM THE CDU/CSU) HAVE SHOWN THEIR TRUE COLORS" ON QUESTION OF INVIOABILITY OF POST-WAR EUROPEAN BORDERS. IN SOMEWHAT Milder TONE PRAVDA COMMENTATOR NOTES THAT "SURPRISINGLY, PROMINENT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COALITION SPD/FDP ALSO JOIN IN COMMON CHOIR WITH THE RIGHT-WING PRESS AND OPPOSITION POLITICIANS." PRAVDA PIECE CONCLUDES THAT NEITHER ELECTION TACTICS NOR OTHER CONSIDERATIONS CAN BE USED AS GROUNDS FOR VIOLATING PEACE AND STABILITY IN EUROPE, OR THE SOVEREIGN RIGHTS OF THE GDR NOT TO INTERFERE IN ITS INTERNAL AFFAIRS. SUCH ACTIVITIES VIOLATE UN CHARTER, FINAL ACT OF CSCE AND RUN AGAINST BOTH LETTER AND SPIRIT OF BASIC TREATY GOVERNING RELATIONS BETWEEN GDR AND FRG.

2. IN AUGUST 25 COMMENTARY RADIO MOSCOW TERMED FRG CLAIMS THAT GDR HAD VIOLATED TRANSIT AGREEMENT (TTA) WHEN IT TURNED BACK STERNFAHRT PARTICIPANTS "LIES AND FABRICATIONS." RADIO MOSCOW CLAIMED THAT GDR HAS (PATIENTLY) PERMITTED TRANSIT TRAFFIC TO MOVE UNIMPEDED DESPITE REPEATED MISUSES OF TRANSIT ROUTES BY FRG AND WEST BERLIN CITIZENS. NOTING THAT GDR, SOVIET UNION AND OTHER SOCIALIST BLOC STATES WOULD NOT ACCEPT CONTINUING VIOLATIONS ALONG THE TRANSIT ROUTES OR EFFORTS BY WEST GERMANS AND BERLINERS TO MODIFY TERMS OF TTA THROUGH (IMPROPER) PRACTICES, RADIO MOSCOW COMMENTATOR RECALLED CENTRAL POINT OF MAY 22 SOVIET STATEMENT ON SOVIET-FRG RELATIONS--THAT SUCCESSFUL FUNCTIONING OF QA IS DEPENDENT ON CONTINUED GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN FRG AND SOCIALIST STATES.

3. COMMENT: RADIO MOSCOW STOPS CONSIDERABLY SHORT OF POSITION TAKEN IN PEACE AND PROGRESS BROADCAST (REFTEL) IN THAT IT DOES NOT CLAIM GDR HAS ABSOLUTE RIGHT TO CONTROL TRAFFIC MOVING OVER TRANSIT ROUTES, NOR DOES IT SUGGEST THAT STERNFAHRT PARTICIPANTS VIOLATED QA. PRAVDA ARTICLE IS EVEN MORE RESTRAINED, AVOIDING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 USBERL 01771 261554Z

SPECIFIC REFERENCES TO ANY RECENT BORDER INCIDENTS AND IGNORING ALTOGETHER AUGUST 13 AUTOBAHN VIOLATIONS AT A TIME WHEN ALL EYES HERE ARE FOCUSED ON THOSE VIOLATIONS AND THE FOLLOW-UP MEETINGS OF THE JOINT TRANSIT COMMISSION AND IN THE BONN GROUP. WE THINK IT ALSO SIGNIFICANT THAT WHILE PRAVDA CHOOSES TO ENUMERATE THREE MAJOR AGREEMENTS AND DOCUMENTS WHICH RECENT ACTIVITIES OF FRG POLITICIANS AND PRESS ALLEGEDLY VIOLATE, NOT ONE

MENTION IS MADE ABOUT POSSIBLE VIOLATIONS OF THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT. ALL THIS SUGGEST TO US THAT WHILE SOVIETS MAY BE WILLING AT PRESENT TO TAKE MORE EXTREME STAND ON RECENT BORDER AND AUTOBAHN INCIDENTS IN LESS PRESTIGIOUS PROPAGANDA BROADCAST, THEY ARE CONSIDERABLY LESS WILLING TO ADOPT HARSH LINE IN OFFICIAL PARTY ORGAN, AND WHILE SOVIETS APPEAR TO PROVIDE GNERAL BACKING TO GDR IN RADIO MOSCOW AND RAVDA, THEY ARE LESS INCLINED TO BACK UP SPECIFIC ATIONS TAKEN BY GDR ON AUGUST 13.

4. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN EMBASSY MOSCOW'S THOUGHTS ABOUT THE THEMATIC DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE "PEACE AND PROGRESS" COMMENTARY, THE RESTRAINED PRAVDA PIECE, AND MOSCOW RADIO'S POSITION BETWEEN THE TWO. IS THIS CUSTOMARY ORCHESTRATION FOR SOVIET MEDIA IN DEALING WITH A GERMAN PROBLEM? GEORGE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, BORDER INCIDENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 AUG 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976USBERL01771  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760326-0599  
**From:** USBERLIN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760815/aaaaamll.tel  
**Line Count:** 132  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 USBERLIN 1751  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 21 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <21 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <23 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** RADIO MOSCOW AND PRAVDA COMMENTARY ON RECENT BORDER INCIDENTS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, WB, US, UR, UK, FR, GE, GC  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006